

**Public Safety Committee Meeting
December 15, 2020**

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:00 pm via Zoom Conferencing in the Conference Room at City Hall, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Ken Gardner, Elizabeth Patten and Austin Lott. Excused was Committee Member Kathy Wilcox. Also present were: Police Chief Doug Colombik, Fire Captain Jake Richards, City Planner Ally Capps, Public Utilities, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Firefighter Grant Lean, and HR Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Lott called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens

Fire Chief Stevens updated the Committee on the status of Fire Department facilities and equipment. Should the current call volume continue, a staff of 19 FTE's would be required to keep up. The department is continuing to look at wildland assessments. Tower 19 is a 1993 model is coming upon being 30 years old, a maintenance company will be coming to look at the tower in the near future. The fire station is having draining, electrical, and plumbing issues. A safety audit was recently conducted and a plan will be put together to address these issues.

2. Committee Member Comments

None

3. Review and Recommendation regarding short, mid and long-term goals for the Woolhouse Building.

Committee Chairperson Lott, Captain Dan Baker and Chief Colombik have met with Architect Brandon Janshen. Architect Janshen has provided preliminary drawings, which will be included as part of these minutes. The building purchase price is \$263,000. A base flood elevation study will be done. The building will require fire sprinklers, gutting, and remodel for offices and evidence storage; all remodel will be in accordance with ADA. The remodel costs are estimated at \$600,000. Total project cost would be \$1.1 million dollars, including furniture. Phase I of the project would include providing temporary housing for the police department in the rear of the building, while the building project is progressing. This area could provide office space of 2,200 square feet for a possible tenant in the future such as Montana Probation and Parole. Chairperson Lott would like the following items started: 1) Base Flood Elevation Report 2) Obtain a quote for hazardous material assessment in preparation for an abatement plan. Chairperson Lott stated that Bruce Ingraham said the assessment would be approximately \$5,000. Committee Member Patten suggested Planner Capps contact the Brownsfield Coalition for funding, they have been looking for a project is SE Montana. Phase II will start on the east end of the building. Phase III other options for the building, i.e. dispatch, fire department.

***Committee Member Lott moved to recommend to Council 1) overall budget of \$1.1 million, 2) approve a hazmat assessment contingent on either Brownsfield Coalition or Bruce Ingraham, 3) approval of a flood study, and 4) demolition and rapid remodel for short-term occupancy, if required. All contingent on purchase of the building, seconded by Committee Member Gardner. On roll call vote the motion passed unanimously, 3-0.*

4. Adjournment

***Committee Member Patten moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed unanimously, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Chairperson Austin Lott



Recorder Linda Wilkins